

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 9A-9B and 10A-10B as shown on the attached drawings.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants express their appreciation to Examiner Mondt for the courtesy of agreeing to conduct two telephonic interviews on April 12 and April 19, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 8, which the Examiner made in the telephonic interview of April 19, 2005, and indicated in the concurrently issued proposed Examiner's Amendment.

Summary of the Interview and Response

As discussed during the telephonic interview of April 19, 2005, and described in the concurrently issued proposed Examiner's Amendment, the specification and drawings have been amended, claims 6 and 8 have been amended and new claim 10 has been added, based on the description of the prior art cited. No new matter has been added. Support for the new claim may be found, for example, in Figure 1(b) of the application. Claims 1-3, 7 and 9 have been previously canceled. Thus, claims 4-6, 8 and 10 are pending and subject to examination.

Replacement Figures 9(a), 9(b), 10(a) and 10(b)

The Examiner objected to the drawings because Figures 9(a), 9(b), 10(a) and 10(b) were not properly labeled as -- Prior Art --. Applicants respectfully present replacement Figures 9(a), 9(b), 10(a) and 10(b) properly labeled as -- Prior Art --, in

compliance with 37 CFR § 1.84. Accordingly, Applicants request approval of the drawing changes, and the objection to be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6 and 8 recite Patentable Subject Matter

As the Examiner indicated during the telephonic interview of April 19, 2005, claims 4-6 and 8 are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 10 Recites Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding new claim 10, Applicants submit that this claim recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Claim 10 is directed to a semiconductor device comprising an insulating gate field effect transistor comprising a plurality of transistor cells arranged in a semiconductor layer and connected in parallel; a protective diode connected between a gate and a source of said insulating gate field effect transistor to prevent breakdown due to a voltage greater than or equal to a particular value, said protective diode formed as a bidirectional diode having at least one closed ring-shaped p-type layer, flatly and alternately provided with at least one closed ring-shaped n-type layer, on an insulating layer at a peripheral portion of a region of said transistor cells; a source wiring in contact with the most inner layer of said protective diode; and a gate wiring of a closed ring-shaped metal film substantially contacting the full circumferential length of the outermost layer of said protective diode, wherein said closed ring-shaped metal film is connected to a gate electrode pad comprising a metal film provided within said protective diode formed by said closed ring-shaped p-type and n-type layers, with partial striding over said protective diode.

The addition of new claim 10 was discussed during the Examiner interviews of April 12 and 19, 2005, and Applicants submit that it fully reflects the features discussed during those interviews. It was agreed that these features are allowable over the cited prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

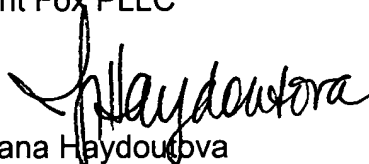
Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107400-00044.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107400-00044.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juliana Haydoutova", written over the printed name.

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Enclosures: Figs. 9(a)-10(b)